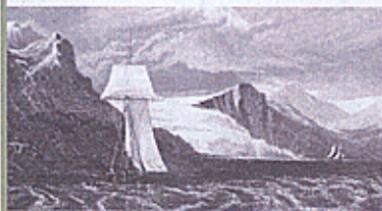


NOAA's



RARE 19TH CENTURY OCEANOGRAPHY BOOKS



A Collection on the NOAA
200th Anniversary Web Site

<http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov>

NOAA's Rare 19th Century Oceanography Books

"Could the waters of the Atlantic be drawn off, so as to expose to view this great sea-gash, which separates continents, and extends from the Arctic to the Antarctic, it would present a scene the most rugged, grand, and imposing. The very ribs of the solid earth, with the foundations of the sea, would be brought to light, and we should have presented to us at one view the empty cradle of the ocean..." (from *The Physical Geography of the Sea*, 1st edition, 1855, by Matthew Fontaine Maury)

A Young Science Comes of Age

By the middle of the 19th century, the young science of oceanography had sufficiently matured for scientific literature of the sea to begin to appear. Nations had started exploring the oceans on expeditions that sometimes sailed around the globe and lasted years in order to learn more about the sea. The explorers on these cruises documented amazing findings and technological advances in very detailed, sometimes lavishly illustrated books that often conveyed a sense of awe and majesty for the ocean.

Oceanography books from this era found their way to the Coast Survey Library, an ancestor of today's NOAA Central Library, and now reside in the Library's Rare Book Room. To showcase the remarkable work of early ocean scientists, the NOAA Library selected its ten most significant oceanography holdings from the 19th century to accompany other thematic collections of significance to NOAA's history on the NOAA 200th Anniversary Web site.

Stirring the Spirit of Discovery

The volumes in this collection, published between 1839 and 1903, capture the spirit of oceanography's formative years. They highlight some of the greatest early oceanographic achievements of the United States, Norway, Germany, and Great Britain. They evoke the excitement of discovery as scientists and explorers investigated ocean depths, currents, flora and fauna, fisheries, native peoples and cultures of foreign lands, and even icebergs. And they reveal technological breakthroughs such as those made by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey steamer *Blake*, the most important oceanographic research ship of the 19th century.



The USS Blake from the frontispiece of Deep-Sea Sounding and Dredging.

Books in the Collection

The books in this collection read like a "top ten" in the annals of historic oceanographic literature. The books include:

- *Surveying Voyages of the Adventure and Beagle* by Rober FitzRoy and Charles Darwin
- *Physical Geography of the Sea* by Matthew Fontaine Maury
- *Depths of the Sea* by Wyville Thomson
- *Voyage of the 'Challenger'* by Wyville Thomson
- *Deep-Sea Sounding and Dredging* by Charles Sigsbee
- *The Norwegian North-Atlantic Expedition, 1876-1878* by Henrik Mohn and Georg Sars
- *The Fisheries and Fishery Industries of the United States* by George Brown Goode
- *Three Cruises of the Blake* by Alexander Agassiz
- *The Gulf Stream: Methods of the Investigation* by John Pillsbury
- *Aus den Tiefen des Weltmeeres (trans. From the Depths of the World Sea)* by Carl Chun

Features of the Collection

For each of the books in this online collection, we feature a short overview often with a quotation and an image, an interactive "flip book" in Flash format that allows you to "turn the pages" of 10-15 page excerpts, a gallery of images for each of the pages in the flip books, and portable document format (pdf) files for access to the full version of the text for most titles. We invite you to visit this historic collection at <http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/collections.html> and enjoy the spirit of ocean discovery enthusiastically conveyed by the authors, many of whom are among the "founding fathers" of modern oceanography.

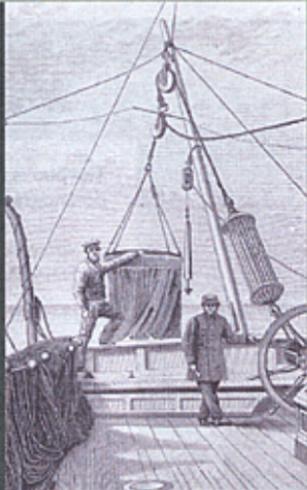


About NOAA's 200th Celebration

In 1807, President Thomas Jefferson founded the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (as the Survey of the Coast) to provide nautical charts to the maritime community for safe passage into American ports and along our extensive coastline. The Weather Bureau was founded in 1870 and, one year later, the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries was founded. Individually, these organizations were America's first physical science agency, America's first agency dedicated specifically to the atmospheric sciences, and America's first conservation agency.

The cultures of scientific accuracy and precision, service to protect life and property, and stewardship of resources of these three agencies were brought together in 1970, with the establishment of NOAA, an agency within the Department of Commerce.

Today, in 2007, we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the establishment of which set in motion a 200-year legacy of science, service, and stewardship.



Over-the-side oceanographic equipment from The Depths of the Sea.



NOAA Library's Rare Book Room

Approximately 40 percent of the NOAA Central Library's rare book collection is unique. Of these unique items, over 400 were printed prior to 1800. The two oldest works were printed in 1485 and 1494, respectively. In general, the Library's Rare Book Room houses books published prior to 1860. Many works of later vintage are also stored here, including those concerned with the history of NOAA's ancestor agencies, many that help trace the birth of the American scientific community, and the titles that make up the collection of rare 19th century oceanography books featured on the NOAA 200th Anniversary Web site.

For Further Information

The online NOAA Rare 19th Century Oceanography Books Collection is a collaborative effort of the NOAA Central Library, the NOAA 200th Anniversary Celebration, and the National Ocean Service Special Projects Office. For further information on the collection, contact **MaryLou**.

Cumberpatch@noaa.gov, **Diana.L.Abney@noaa.gov**, or **Albert.E.Theberge.Jr@noaa.gov** at the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, Maryland, or write to **library.reference@noaa.gov**.



celebrating200years.noaa.gov

